

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-6 and 8-14. Claims 3, 4, 5 and 10-12 have been amended. Thus, claims 3-14 remain pending. Claim 1 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116:

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because claims 3 and 10-11 have been amended to include part of the subject matter from dependent claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if amended into independent form. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 10-11 to include, "conducting processing in the classification and the arrangement of the data so that the data having similar feature values are disposed close to each other."

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,802,361, issued to Wang *et al.* (hereinafter Wang). Applicant has canceled claim 1 and amended claims 4-5 and 12 to depend from claim 3. Independent claims 10-11 include part of the subject matter from claim 3. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claims 10 and 11, respectively. As the independent claims 1 and 10-11 recite part of the subject matter from allowable claim 3, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over the references. The remaining dependent claims depend from these claims and are also allowable over the references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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